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## Travel for us

### The Pacific Northwest: Exploring Seattle.

BY the EDITORS of ENVOY PRESS

**T**he sound of surf pounding against ocean cliffs; the perfect stillness of mountain lakes fed by melting glaciers; the evergreen forest thick with moss-coated trees; the formal gardens of a British city recalling the days of Empire — this and more is the Pacific Northwest.

A good place for gay/lesbian vacationers to begin exploring the Pacific Northwest is Seattle. Surrounded by water — Puget Sound to the west and Lake Washington to the east — the city proper covers about 92 square miles. On a clear day, you

can see the snow-covered peak of Mt. Rainier rising above the eastern horizon, a reminder that Seattle is nestled between two mountain ranges — the Cascades and the Olympic Mountains.

Seattle has a very active gay/lesbian community. There are more than 20 bars and restaurants for men and women, many of them on or around Pike St. Among the more popular places for men is Brass Connection on Pike St., near Harvard. Neighbors, on Broadway near Pike, and R Place, at 706 E. Pike, welcomes both gay men and lesbians. For women only, there is Wildrose, with a good mix of younger and older women, and this establishment also serves dinners. Eastlake, a dance bar, is a popular spot for younger lesbians. Tugs, at 2207 1st Ave., is known as one of Seattle's best dance bars, with videos and a live D.J. Thursday night is women's night at Tugs. Ritz Cafe is a bar and restaurant appealing to gay men and lesbians.

For a complete listing of Seattle's bars along with news about current goings on around town, the visitor should pick up a copy of the *Seattle Gay News*. Seattle's weekly gay/lesbian newspaper.

Seattle also has some charming gay guesthouses.

The Shafer Mansion, built in 1912, is a huge, sprawling establishment with 22 rooms total and lots of charm. It is situated on a very quiet residential street, yet is close to Seattle's Art Museum and shopping areas. Rates begin at \$45 dollars per night and include Continental breakfast.

The Gaslight Inn, built in 1906, has an elegant flavor. It is situated closer to the Capitol Hill business and shopping area and has a heated pool and outdoor deck. Rates begin at \$48 per night.



For those who love to shop Seattle is home to a shopper's dream: the Pike Place Market. This complex of exotic food, specialty stores and smart boutiques is reputed to be the world's largest outdoor market.

With all the water in the area, Seattle is a natural place for boating, bathing, and other water sports during the summer. In winter, a visitor can drive to the popular ski areas in the nearby Cascade Mountains. At any time of year it would be worthwhile to drive out to view some of North America's most beautiful scenery.

The roads and highways around Seattle offer one scenic lookout after another. Rivers pouring down from mountain tops create waterfalls, gorges, and white-water rapids. There are many campgrounds in the nearby state and national parks and forests, and special wilderness tours are also available. For women, Womantrek of Seattle offers sea kayaking trips among the San Juan islands and other outdoor adventures.

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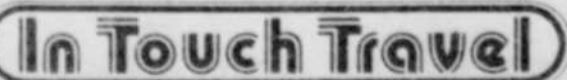
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